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AN ALPHA-BET OF CELEBRITIES.

BY

OLIVER HERFORD.

AN ALPHABET

OF CELEBRITIES

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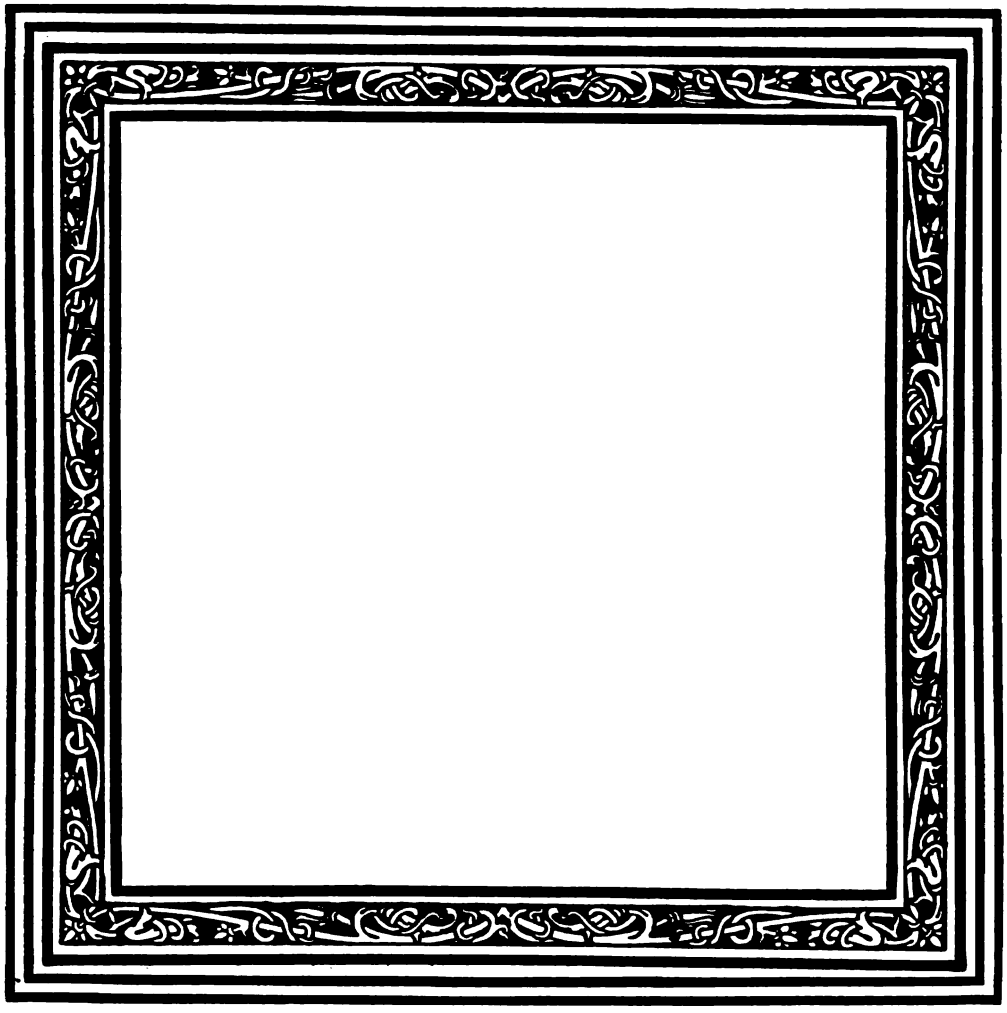

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Oliver Herford

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1899

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An Alphabet of Celebrities

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A'S Albert Edward,
well meaning but
flighty,
Who invited King Arthur,
the blameless and
mighty,
To meet Alcibiades and
Aphrodite.

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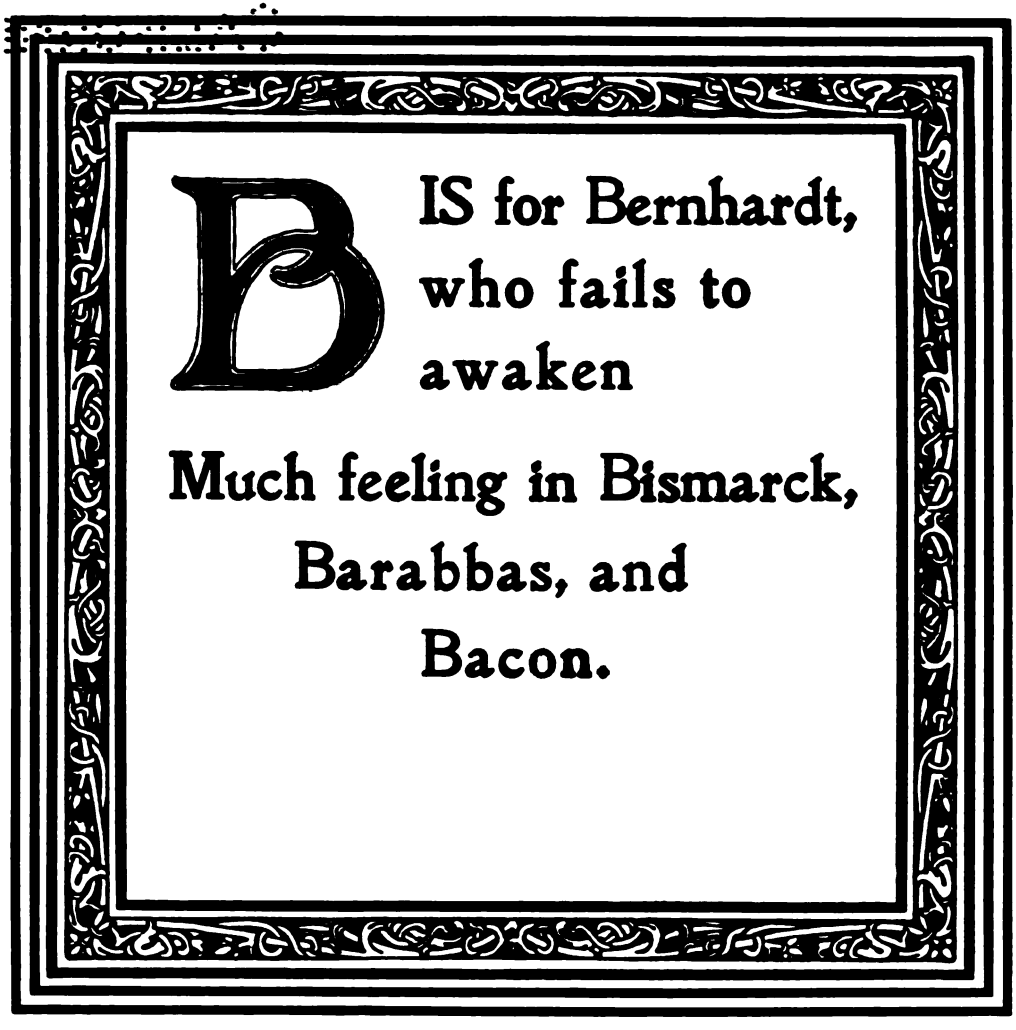
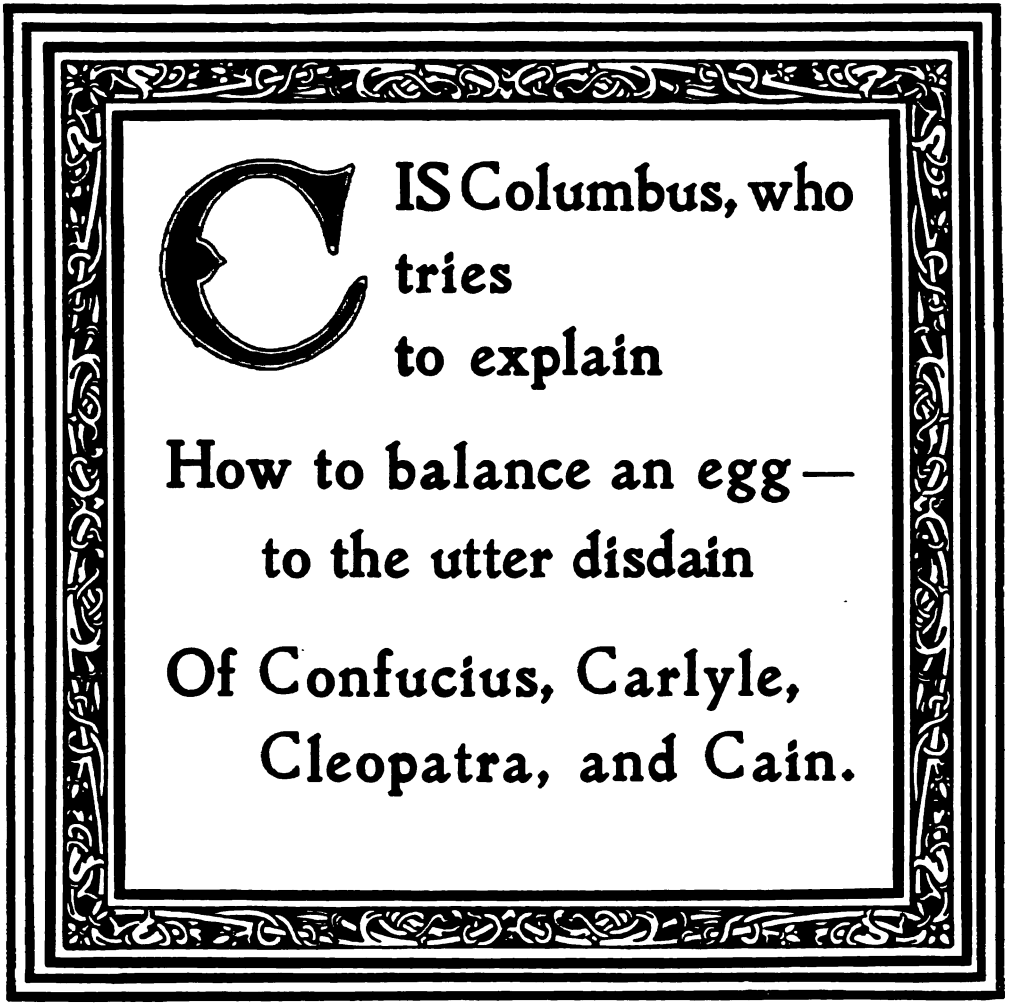
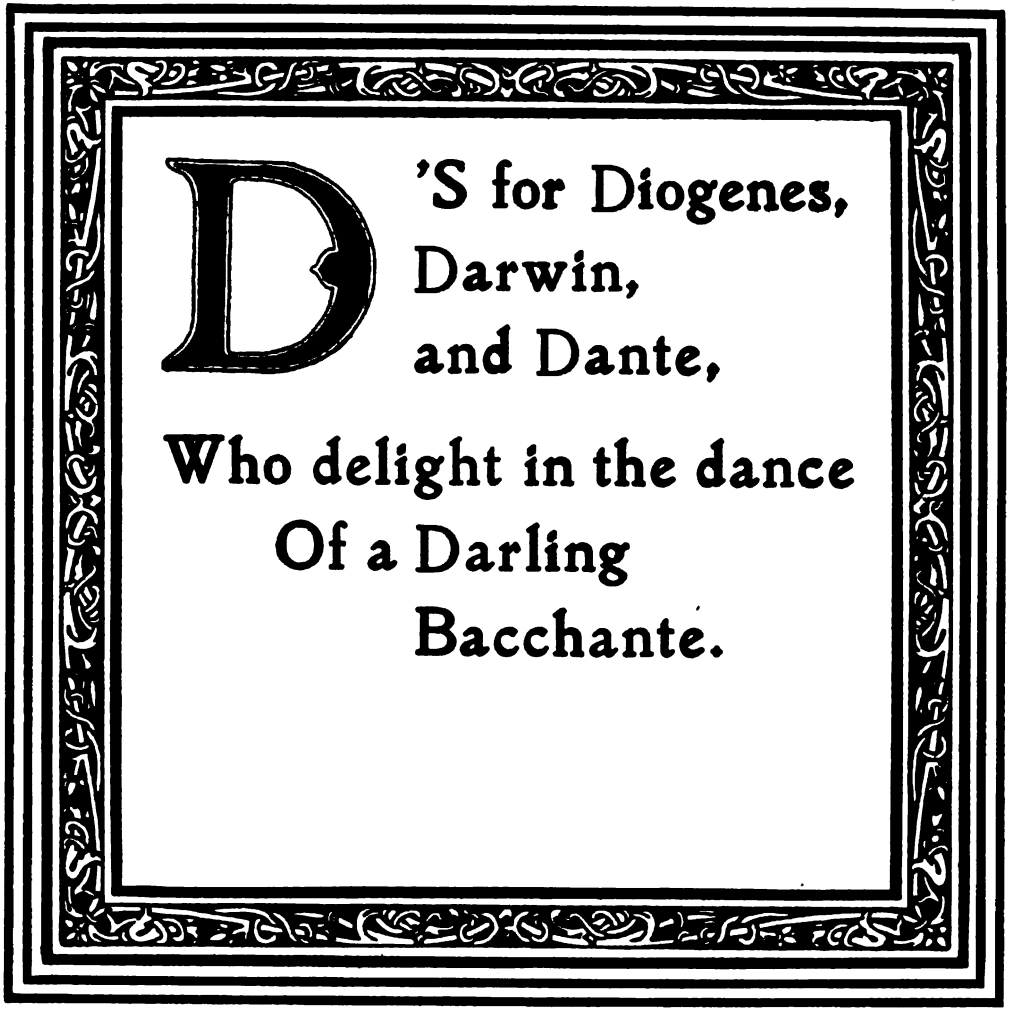

B IS for Bernhardt,
who fails to
awaken
Much feeling in Bismarck,
Barabbas, and
Bacon.

B


CIS Columbus, who
tries
to explain
How to balance an egg—
to the utter disdain
Of Confucius, Carlyle,
Cleopatra, and Cain.


D 'S for Diogenes,
Darwin,
and Dante,
Who delight in the dance
Of a Darling
Bacchante.

E IS for Edison,
making
believe
He's invented a clever
contrivance for Eve,
Who complained that she
never could laugh
in her sleeve.

E

F IS for Franklin,
who fearfully
shocks

The feelings of Fenelon,
Faber, and Fox.

GIL BLAS
MARTYRS

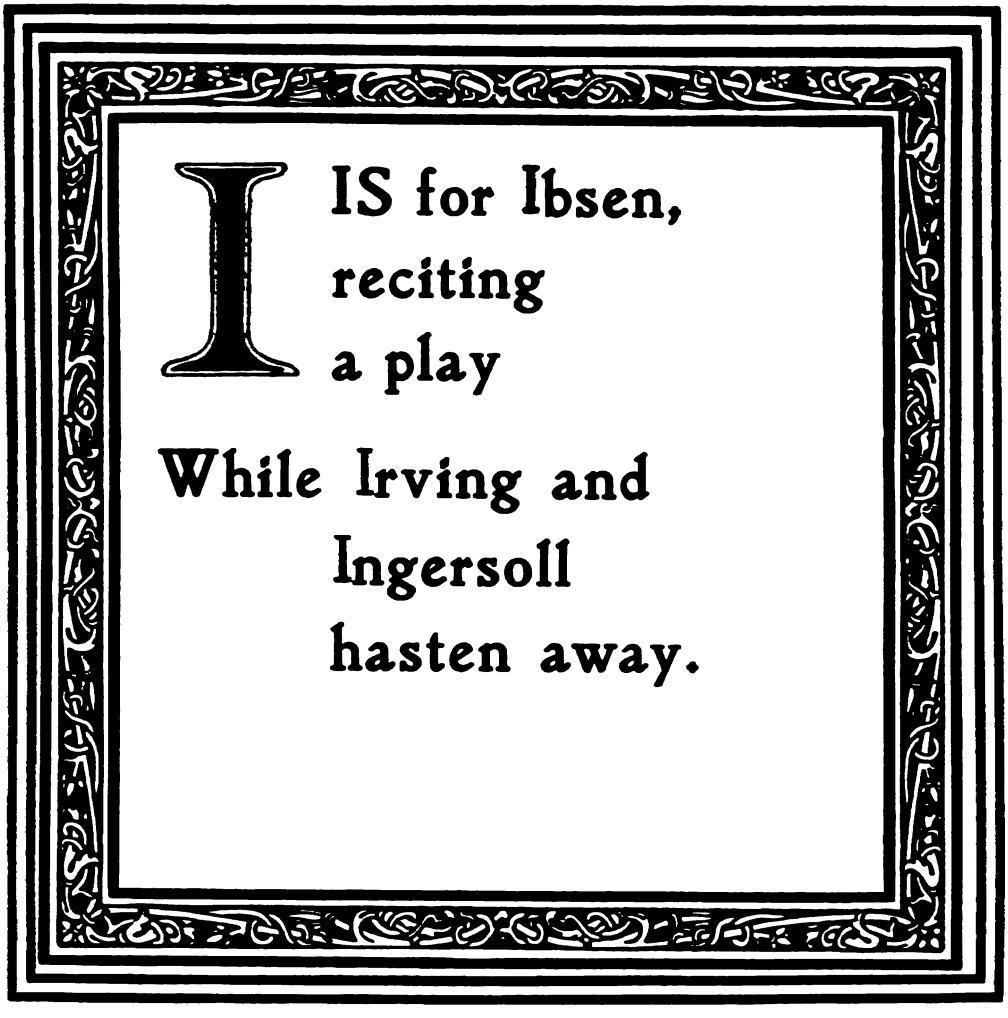
GIS Godiva, whose
great bareback
feat

She kindly but firmly de-
clines to repeat,

Though Gounod and
Goldsmith implore
and entreat.

HIS for Handel,
who pours
out his soul
Through the bagpipes to
Howells and Homer,
who roll
On the floor in an ecstasy
past all control.

H


I IS for Ibsen,
reciting
a play
While Irving and
Ingersoll
hasten away.

J IS for Johnson,
who only says
"Pish!"

To Jonah, who tells him
his tale
of a fish.

J

K IS the Kaiser, who kindly repeats

Some original verses to Kipling and Keats.

LIS Lafontaine,
who finds he's
unable

To interest Luther and
Liszt in his fable,

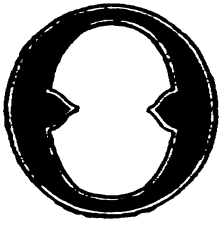
While Loie continues
to dance on the table.

MIS Macduff,
who's prevailed
upon Milton

And Montaigne and
Manon to each try
a kilt on.

NIS Napoleon,
shrouded
in gloom,
With Nero, Narcissus,
and Nordau, to whom
He's explaining the
manual of arms with
a broom.

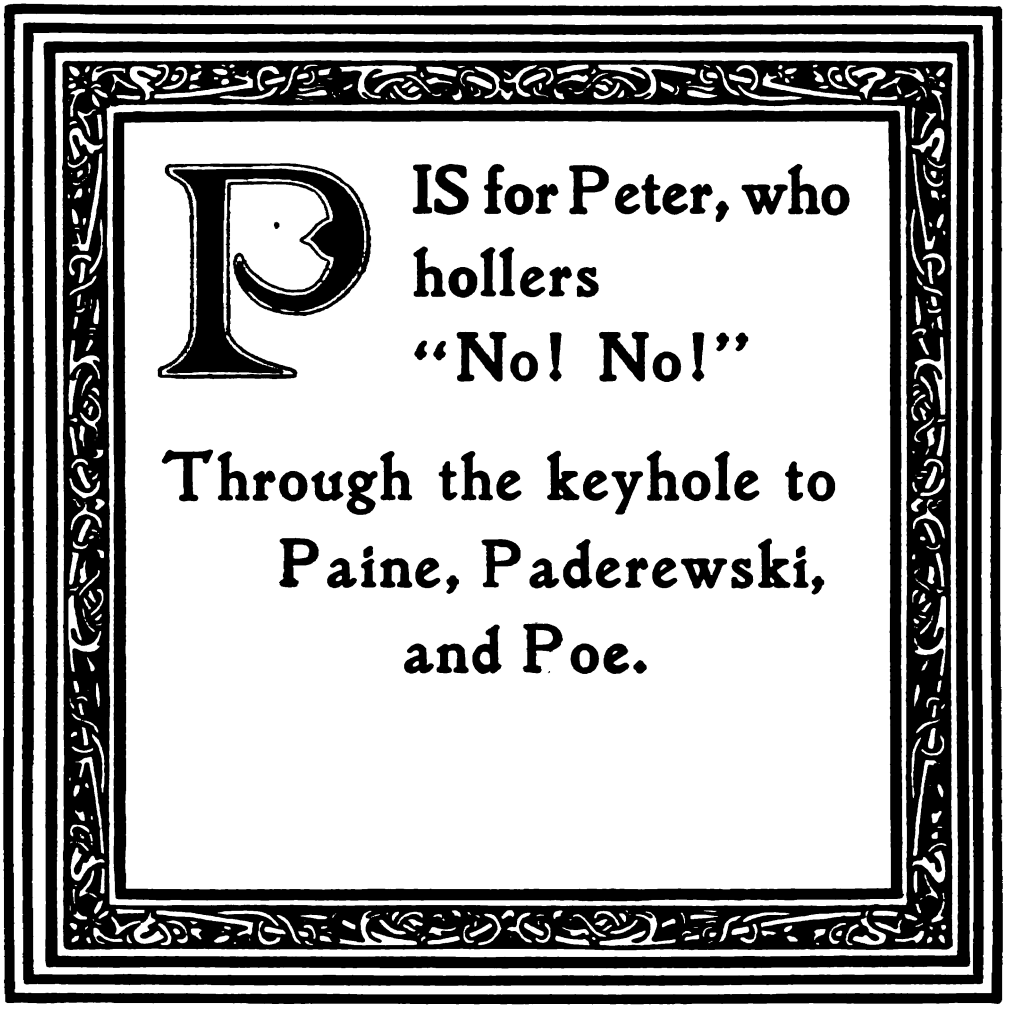
N



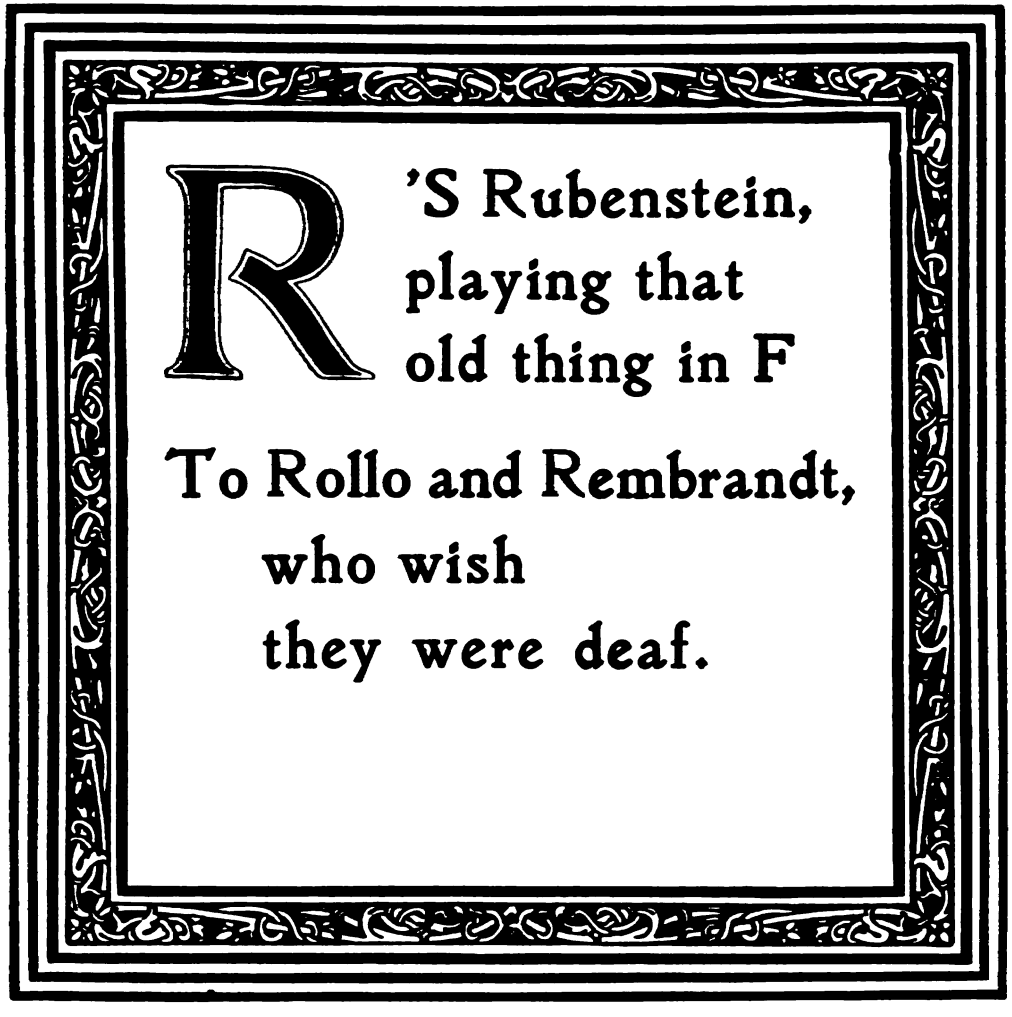
IS for Oliver,
casting
aspersion

On Omar, that awfully
dissolute Persian,

Though secretly longing
to join the diversion.

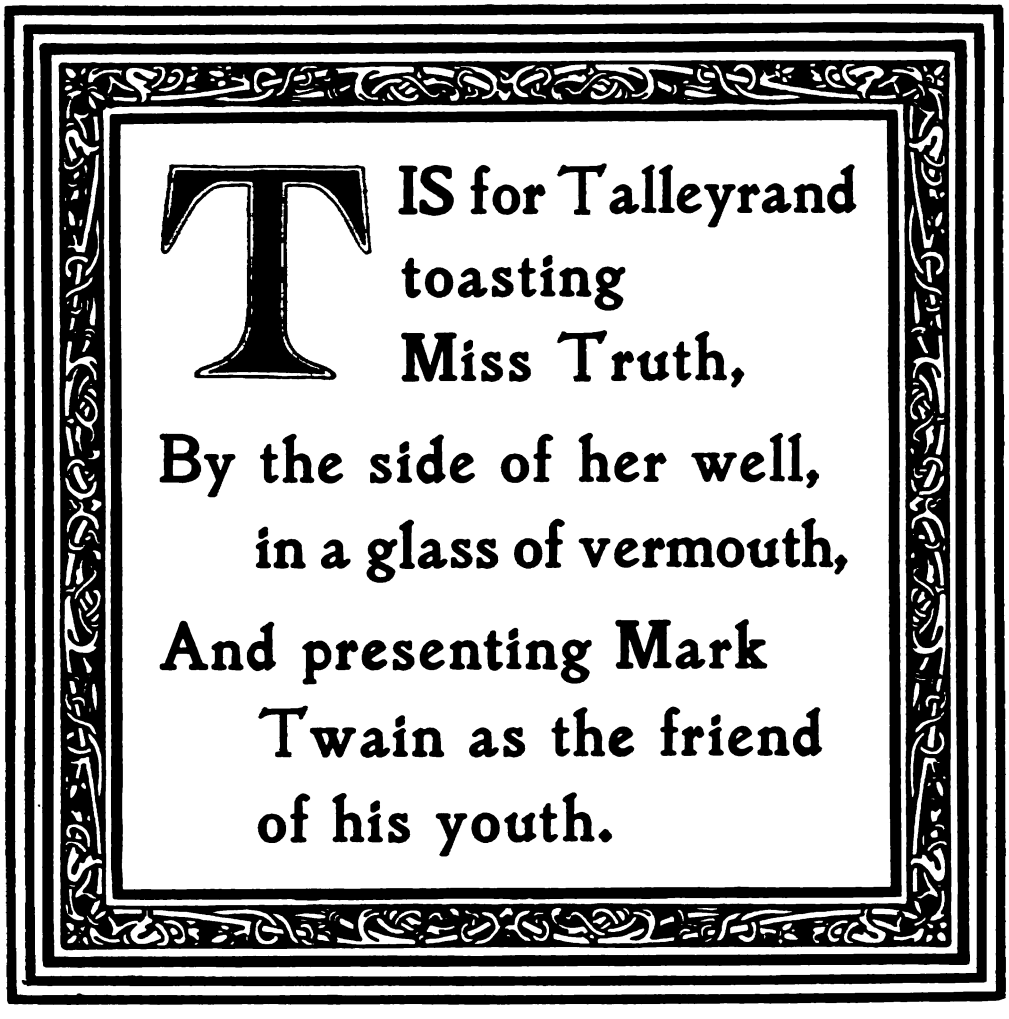

P IS for Peter, who hollers "No! No!"
Through the keyhole to Paine, Paderewski, and Poe.

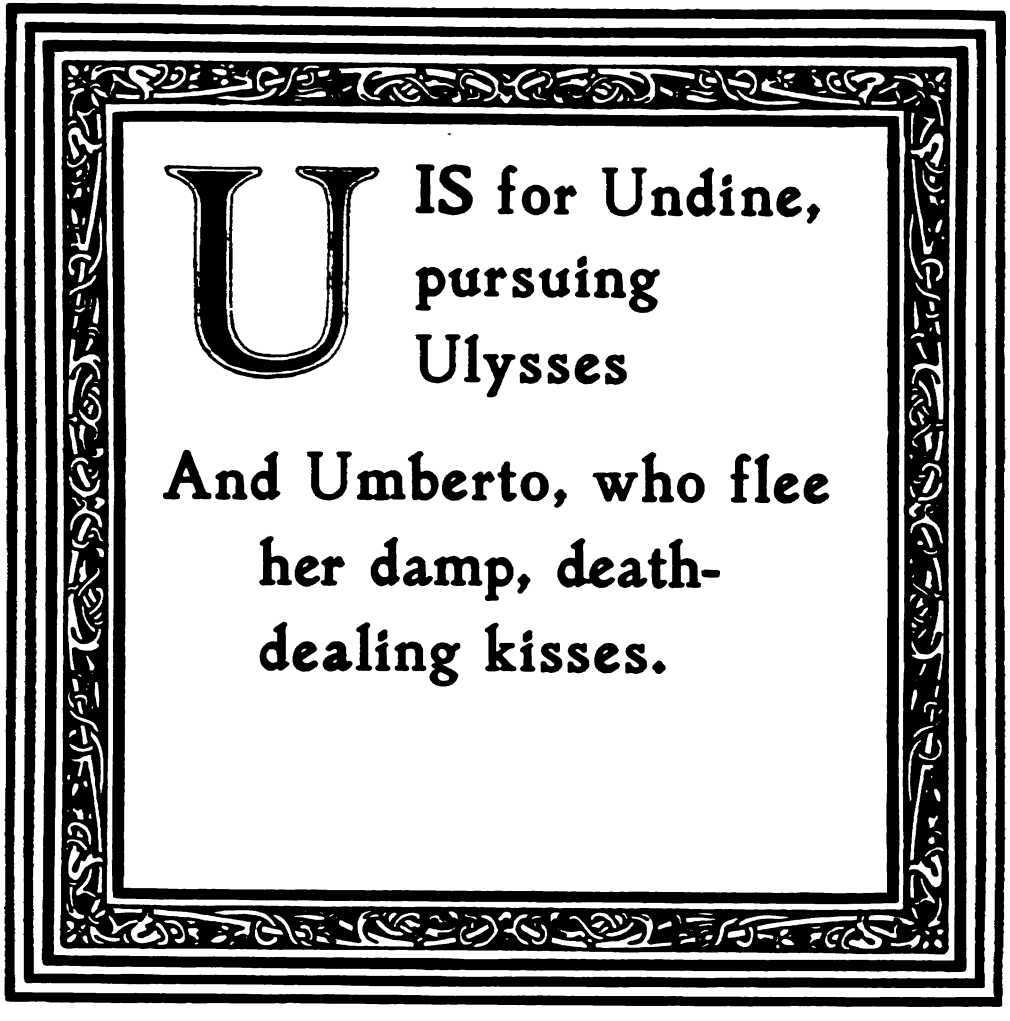
IS the Queen,
so noble
and free—
For further particulars look
under V.


R 'S Rubenstein,
playing that
old thing in F
To Rollo and Rembrandt,
who wish
they were deaf.

MELODY
IN F

S IS for Swinburne,
who, seeking the
true, the good, and
the beautiful, visits the Zoo,
Where he chances on Sap-
pho and Mr. Sardou,
And Socrates, all with the
same end in view.


TIS for Talleyrand
toasting
Miss Truth,
By the side of her well,
in a glass of vermouth,
And presenting Mark
Twain as the friend
of his youth.

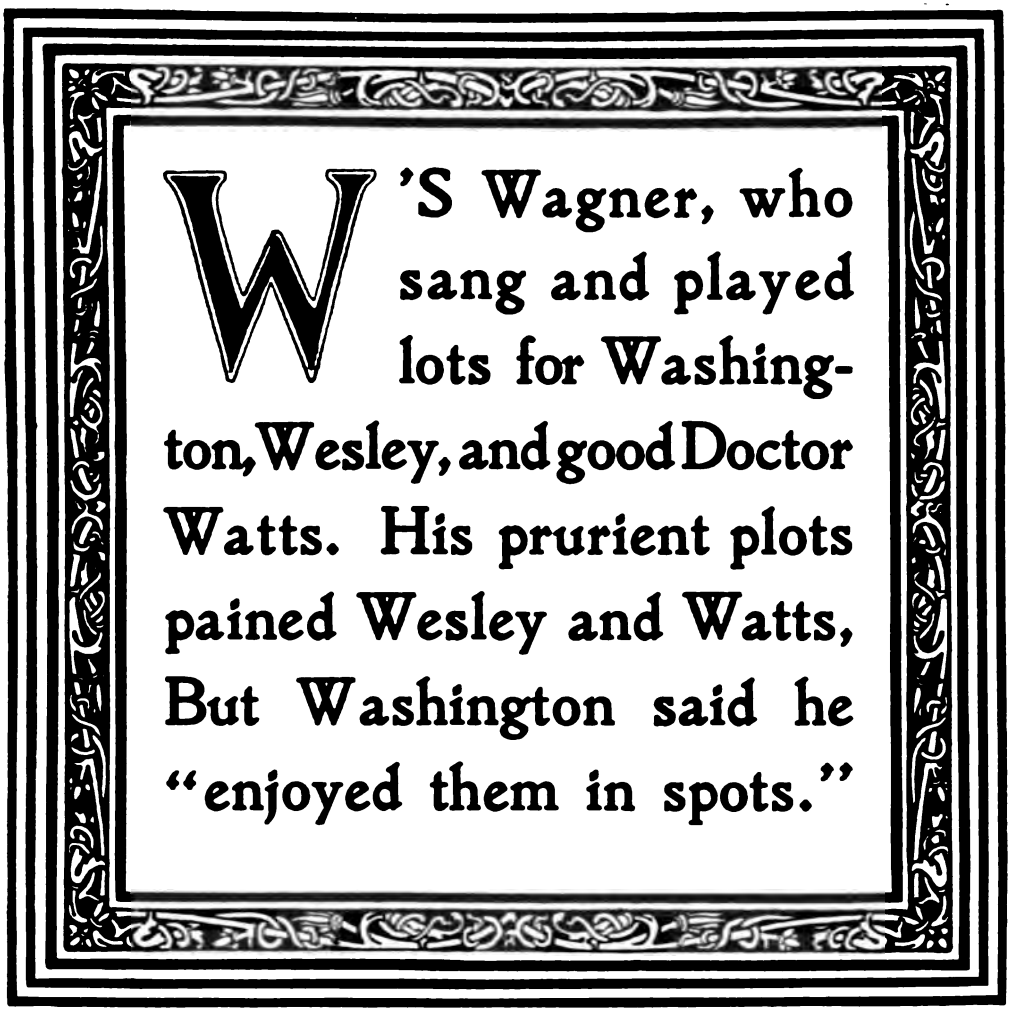

U IS for Undine,
pursuing
Ulysses
And Umberto, who flee
her damp, death-
dealing kisses.

U

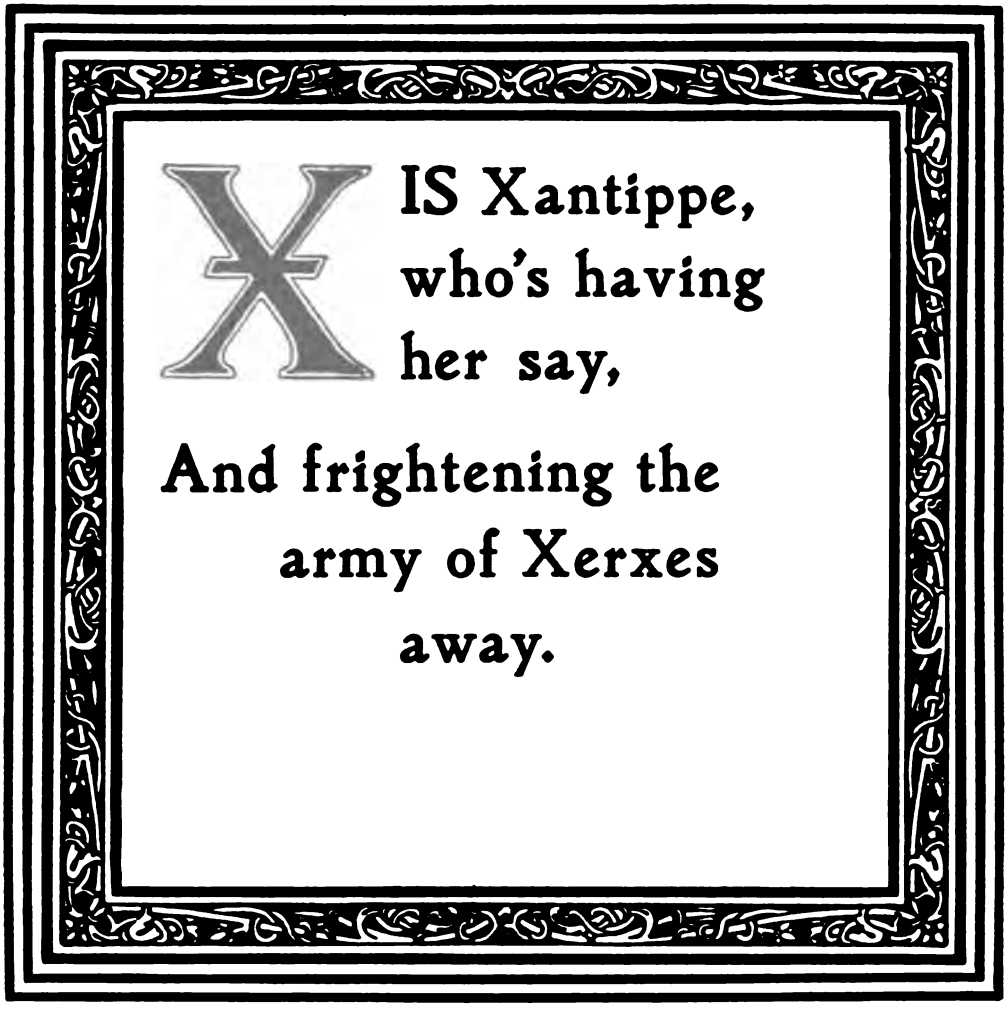
VIS Victoria,
noble
and true —

For further particulars look under Q.

V


W'S Wagner, who sang and played lots for Washington, Wesley, and good Doctor Watts. His prurient plots pained Wesley and Watts, But Washington said he "enjoyed them in spots."

W

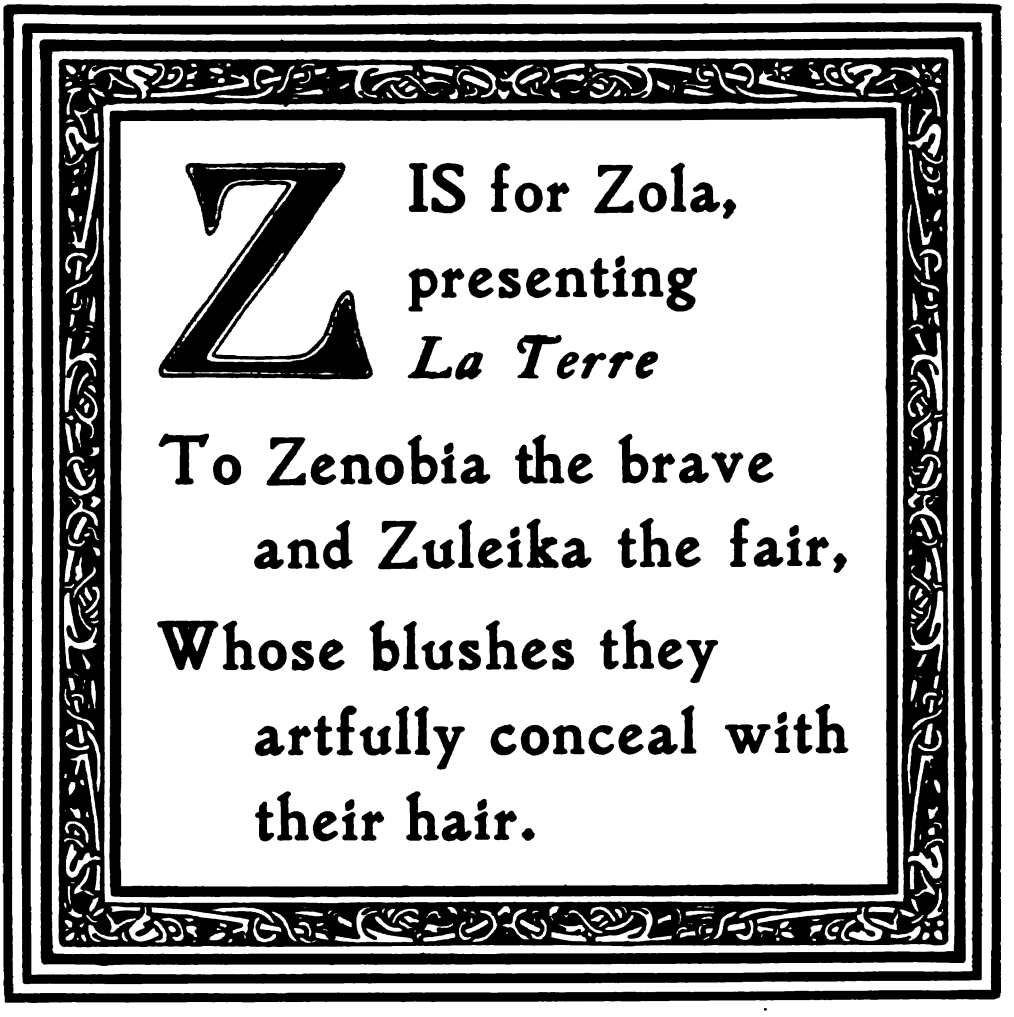

X IS Xantippe,
who's having
her say,
And frightening the
army of Xerxes
away.

Y IS for Young,
the great
Mormon saint,

Who thinks little Yum
Yum and Yvette so
quaint,

He has to be instantly
held in restraint.

Y


Z IS for Zola,
presenting
La Terre
To Zenobia the brave
and Zuleika the fair,
Whose blushes they
artfully conceal with
their hair.

Z

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